

Stories That Stay with You: Experience the 2026 Clinical Excellence Conference

Some conferences leave you with pages of notes. Others leave you with something much more lasting.

That's what happened at last year's FNA Clinical Excellence Conference. Through powerful stories shared by nurses from across Florida, attendees were reminded why they entered the profession, reflected on their own experiences, and left feeling inspired to bring renewed purpose back to their patients and colleagues. This wasn't simply a day of continuing education—it was an experience that stayed with people long after it ended.

One attendee shared, *"This filled my nurse cup in ways I didn't even realize I needed!"*

Another simply wrote, *"I left feeling renewed."*

The storytelling format created an

atmosphere unlike a traditional conference. Rather than simply listening to presentations, attendees found themselves connecting with the experiences being shared, reflecting on their own practice, and leaving with a renewed sense of purpose.

That same spirit returns this fall.

On **October 2 in Orlando**, the **2026 FNA Clinical Excellence Conference** will once again bring together nurses from across Florida to share real-life experiences that demonstrate the depth of clinical expertise, the power of clinical judgment, and the unwavering compassion that defines the nursing profession.

This year's conference will feature compelling stories from nurses representing a wide range of specialties and practice settings. Through their experiences, attend-

ees will explore how science, innovation, competence, and caring come together to improve patient outcomes every day. These stories go beyond clinical cases—they reveal the moments that challenge us, inspire us, and ultimately shape who we are as nurses.

Whether you're a bedside nurse, educator, advanced practice nurse, leader, researcher, or student, you'll leave with practical insights, renewed inspiration, and a deeper appreciation for the extraordinary impact nurses make every day.

Join us on **October 2** as we celebrate the voices of nursing and discover how storytelling can fuel innovation, strengthen practice, and reconnect us with the heart of our profession. ■

The Organized Nurse: Practical Strategies to Improve Time Management and Clinical Efficiency

Danielle Chaplin, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Time management remains one of the most challenging skills for both new and experienced nurses. In fast-paced clinical environments, competing priorities, frequent interruptions, and high patient acuity can quickly lead to disorganization and missed care opportunities. However, with intentional strategies, nurses can improve efficiency, reduce stress, and ultimately enhance patient safety (Leis & Anderson, 2020; Nayak, 2018).

One of the most underutilized tools in modern nursing practice is the electronic health record (EHR). When used strategi-

cally, features such as watchlists, alerts, and personalized dashboards can significantly streamline workflow. Customizing patient lists to display critical labs, medication times, and new provider orders allows nurses to identify priorities in real time rather than reacting after delays occur. Additionally, the use of common pre-built phrases—when appropriately individualized—can reduce charting time while maintaining accuracy (American Nurses Association Enterprise [ANA], 2023).

Equally important is beginning each shift with a structured plan. Spending

even 5–10 minutes reviewing patient assignments, identifying the highest acuity patient, and noting time-sensitive tasks can prevent hours of inefficiency later. Prioritization should follow a clear framework: unstable patients first, time-sensitive interventions next, and routine care last. Task clustering, completing multiple activities in a single patient interaction, further reduces unnecessary interruptions and improves overall workflow (Pagana, 1994; Zhang et al., 2020).

Timeliness also plays a critical role in successful time management. Arriving



early allows nurses to participate fully in handoff communication, review patient information, and mentally prepare for the shift. Missing key details during report due to late arrival can lead to delayed interventions, overlooked orders, and increased stress throughout the day. In this way, effective time management begins before the shift even starts and contributes directly to continuity of care and patient safety (ANA, 2023).

Standardized communication tools such as SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) are another essential component of efficiency. SBAR helps nurses organize information clearly and concisely, reducing communication delays with providers and improving clinical decision-making. By limiting unnecessary back-and-forth exchanges, this structured framework supports both patient safety and improved time management (Leis & Anderson, 2020).

Proactive hourly rounding is another strategy that saves time in the long run. Addressing the “4 Ps”—pain, potty, position, and possessions—can significantly reduce call light usage, prevent patient harm, and improve satisfaction. Although rounding may initially seem time-consuming, evidence suggests it decreases interruptions and improves workflow efficiency over time (Bassi et al., 2025).

Delegation is equally critical. Nurses who attempt to manage all aspects of patient care independently often become overwhelmed and inefficient. Effectively utilizing support staff for appropriate tasks such as vital signs, ambulation, and hygiene allows nurses to focus on higher-level clinical responsibilities while maintaining team efficiency and patient-centered care (Nayak, 2018). However, it is equally important to foster a respectful, collaborative relationship with support staff. Nurses who occasionally assist with these tasks demonstrate teamwork, build trust, and contribute to a stronger, more supportive care environment.

Finally, documentation habits greatly influence workflow. Charting in real time—or in small, frequent intervals—improves accuracy, reduces end-of-shift backlog, and minimizes overtime. This “little and often” approach enhances both efficiency and legal accuracy in clinical documentation (Zhang et al., 2020).

In today's complex healthcare environment, time management is not merely a productivity skill—it is a patient safety priority. By leveraging EHR tools, planning intentionally, communicating effectively, and working collaboratively, nurses can shift from reactive to proactive practice. Small, consistent changes in daily workflow can lead to meaningful improvements in both nurse well-being and patient outcomes. ■

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References online: myamericannurse.com/?p=427425



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